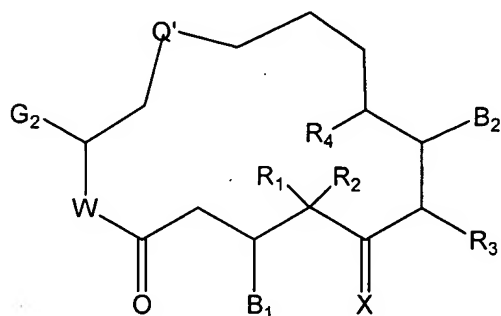


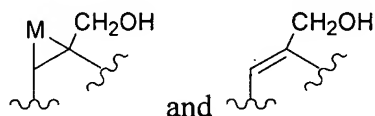
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1(original). A method for the preparation of at least one 26-hydroxyepothilone of formula:

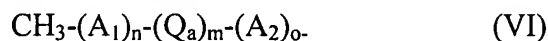


where:

Q' is selected from the group consisting of



G₂ is the following formula (VI)



A₁ and A₂ are independently selected from the group of optionally-substituted (C₁-C₃)alkylene and (C₂-C₃)alkenylene;

Q_a is an optionally-substituted ring system containing one to three rings and at least one carbon to carbon double bond in at least one ring;

n, m, and o are integers independently selected from the group consisting of zero and 1, where at least one of m or n or o is 1;

W is O or NR₆;

X is selected from the group consisting of O, and H, OR₇;

M is O, S, NR₈, or CR₉R₁₀;

B₁ and B₂ are selected from the group consisting of -OR₁₁ and -OC(=O)R₁₂;

R₁-R₄ and R₁₂-R₁₇ are selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, and heterocyclo, except R₁₅ is not hydrogen, and when R₁ and R₂ are alkyl, they can be joined to form a cycloalkyl;

R₆ is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, and substituted alkyl;

R₇ and R₁₁ are selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, trialkylsilyl, alkyldiarylsilyl, and dialkylarylsilyl;

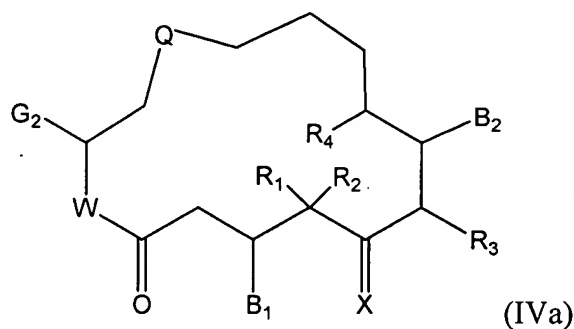
R_8 is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, substituted alkyl, $R_{13}C(=O)-$, $R_{14}OC(=O)-$, and $R_{15}S(O)_2-$; and

R_9 and R_{10} are selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, heterocyclo, hydroxy, $R_{16}C(=O)-$, and $R_{17}OC(=O)-$;

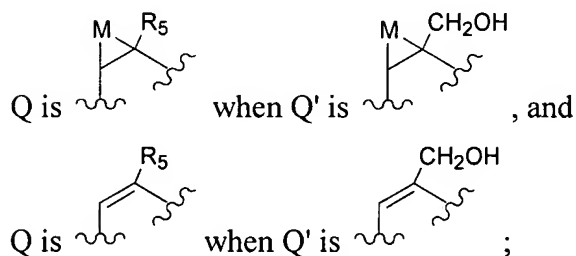
the pharmaceutically-acceptable salts thereof and any hydrates, solvates, or geometric, optical and stereoisomers thereof;

comprising the steps of:

a) contacting at least one epothilone of formula IVa



where:



R_5 is $-CH_3$; and

W, X, G_2 , M, B_1 , B_2 , R_1 - R_4 , and R_6 - R_{17} are defined above;

the pharmaceutically-acceptable salts thereof and any hydrates, solvates, or geometric, optical and stereoisomers thereof;

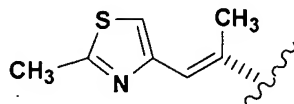
with a microorganism or enzyme derived therefrom capable of selectively catalyzing the hydroxylation of said R_5 group to $-CH_2OH$; and

b) effecting said hydroxylation.

2(original). The method of claim 1 wherein n is zero and m is 1.

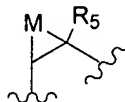
3(original). The method of claim 1 wherein n is zero, m is 1, and A_2 is alkenyl.

4(Previously presented). The method of claim 1 wherein G₂ is

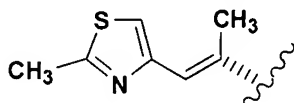


5(canceled).

6(original). The method of claim 1 wherein Q is



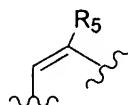
7(previously presented). The method of claim 6 wherein G₂ is



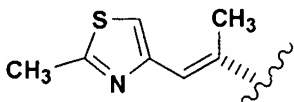
8(original). The method of claim 7 wherein said epothilone of formula IVa is epothilone B and said 26-hydroxyepothilone is 26-hydroxyepothilone B.

9(canceled).

10(currently amended). The method of claim 1 9 wherein said Q is



11(previously presented). The method of claim 10 wherein G₂ is



12(original). The method of claim 11 wherein said epothilone of formula IVa is epothilone D and said 26-hydroxyepothilone is 26-hydroxyepothilone D.

13-17(canceled).